

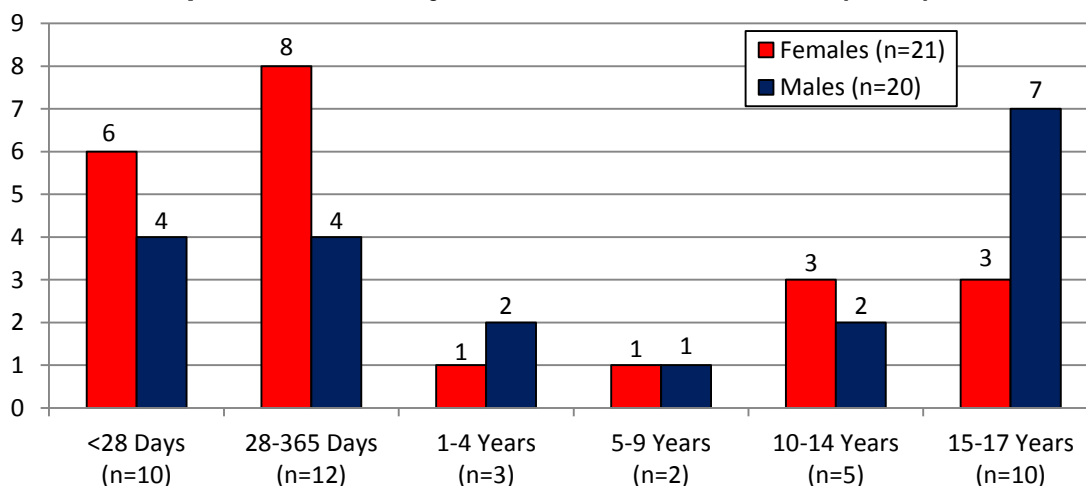


## 2011 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTIES

### DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Apache or Navajo Counties. During 2011, there were 41 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Apache (n=15) and Navajo (n=27). Males accounted for 48 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=20) and females accounted for 52 percent (n=22). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group,  
Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2011 (n=42)**



Deaths were over-represented among American Indian children in these counties. American Indian children comprised 65 percent of the population but 81 percent of the fatalities (n=34). Hispanic children comprised 8 percent of the population in these counties and two percent of the fatalities (n=1). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 26 percent of the population and 12 percent of the fatalities (n=5), and for 2 children their race/ethnicity was unknown.

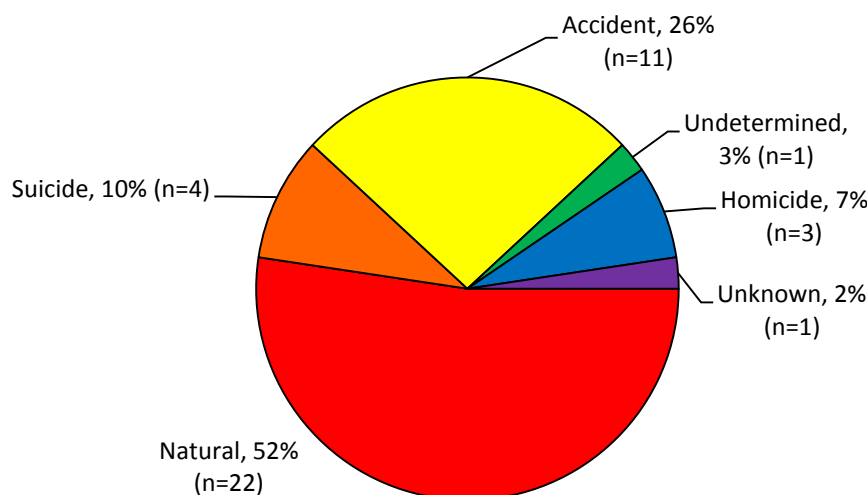
## CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or medical condition that resulted in death (e.g. firearm-related injury, pneumonia, cancer). Manner of death is not the same as cause of death, but specifically refers to the intentionality of the cause. For example, if the cause of death was a firearm-related injury, then the manner of death may have been intentional or unintentional. If it was intentional, then the manner of death was suicide or homicide. If it was unintentional, then the manner of death was an accident. In some cases, there was insufficient information to determine the manner of death, even though the cause was known. It may not have been clear that a firearm death was due to an accident, suicide, or homicide, and in these cases, the manner of death was listed as undetermined. Manners of death include:

- natural (e.g., cancer)
- accident (e.g., unintentional car crash)
- homicide (e.g., assault)
- suicide (e.g., self-inflicted intentional firearm injury)
- undetermined

Fifty-two percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=22), ten percent were due to suicides (n=4), two percent were of undetermined manner (n=1). Twenty-six percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=11), and seven percent were due to homicides (n=3). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

**Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2011 (n=42)**



Nine children died in motor vehicle crashes or in other types of transportation, and 16 deaths were due to medical causes. Seven deaths determined to have been natural were the result of prematurity. Four children died by hanging and two died by blunt/sharp force trauma. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2011 (n=42)							
<b>Cause</b>	<b>Natural</b>	<b>Accident</b>	<b>Suicide</b>	<b>Homicide</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>
Medical*	15	0	0	0	1	0	<b>16</b>
Prematurity	7	0	0	0	0	1	<b>8</b>
MVC/Transport	0	9	0	0	0	0	<b>9</b>
Firearm	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Suffocation	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Blunt/Sharp Force Trauma	0	1	0	1	0	0	<b>2</b>
Hanging	0	0	4	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>42</b>
*Excluding Prematurity and SIDS							

Among the nine children killed in MVC/Transport two children were drivers, five were passengers, one was a pedestrian and one was unknown. Among the vehicle passengers three were in the front seat, one was in the back seat and one was in a truck bed. Among the nine motor vehicle crash deaths, six children were not restrained or were improperly restrained.

## PREVENTABILITY

Child fatality review teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caregiver or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that could have prevented the death. The local child fatality review team determined that 50 percent of the deaths among Apache County and Navajo County children could have been prevented (n=21).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team may have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Apache and Navajo Counties, substance use (including alcohol) was a leading preventable factor in 12 child deaths (29 percent), excessive speed was a factor for six deaths (14 percent), lack of vehicle restraint was also a factor in 6 deaths (14 percent), lack of supervision was a contributing factor for 4 deaths (10 percent). More than one factor may have been identified for each death. Table 2 shows the most common

factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Apache and Navajo Counties in 2011.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2011		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Substance use (including alcohol)	12	29%
Excessive speed	6	14%
Lack of MV restraint	6	14%
Lack of supervision	4	10%
Distracted driving	2	5%
Co-sleeping	1	2%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

### CHILD FATALITIES IN APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Apache and Navajo Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2011, 42 children who were residents of Apache or Navajo Counties died, and 766 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Apache and Navajo Counties had a crude rate of 76.77 child deaths per 100,000 child residents, a much higher rate than the remainder of the state (48.28 deaths per 100,000 child residents). Apache and Navajo Counties also had a larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Fifty percent of the deaths among Apache County and Navajo County child deaths were determined to have been preventable (n=20), compared to nearly one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (34 percent, n=259).

Medical conditions, such as cancer and asthma, were the leading cause of child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties (38 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (41 percent). MVC/Transport deaths accounted for 21 percent of deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties but only seven percent for the remainder of Arizona. Prematurity accounted for 19 percent of deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties and 24 percent for the remainder of Arizona. Table 3 shows the top three leading causes of child deaths for Apache and Navajo Counties compared to the same causes of death in the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2011			
Apache and Navajo Counties (n=42)		Arizona, Excluding Apache and Navajo Counties (n=766)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	38%	Medical	41%
MVC/Transport	21%	MVC/Transport	7%
Prematurity	19%	Prematurity	24%

In Apache and Navajo Counties, the largest percentage of deaths were due to natural causes (52 percent) followed by accidental deaths (26 percent), then suicide (ten percent) and homicide (7 percent). There was a smaller percentage of natural deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties when compared to the rest of Arizona (64 percent), but a higher percentage of suicide and homicide deaths than the rest of Arizona (5 percent each). Undetermined deaths accounted for only 2 percent of deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties where for the rest of Arizona, undetermined deaths accounted for six percent of deaths. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Apache and Navajo Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2011			
Apache and Navajo Counties (n=42)		Arizona, excluding Apache and Navajo Counties (n=766)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	52%	Natural	64%
Accident	26%	Accident	19%
Suicide	10%	Suicide	5%
Homicide	7%	Homicide	5%
Undetermined	2%	Undetermined	6%
Unknown	2%	Unknown	0%